

The Ashley School Academy Trust Assessment Guidance for Staff 2015-2016

Assessment has changed over the last year. The Department for Education has said schools should no longer use levels (1a, 2c, etc.) to record and report pupil attainment (although some schools can choose to do so) because of the New National Curriculum that is now in place.

Some schools have bought commercial software to celebrate achievement and progress whilst others have developed this themselves. At The Ashley School, we have taken a different approach in so far as we want to make sure our curriculum is broad and balanced and that it continues to match the needs of our pupils as well as the requirements of the new National Curriculum.

We want to develop and build on the literacy and numeracy skills of our pupils as well as develop their social skills within the broader range of subjects offered.

This year, we have been working on a new approach to assessment in English and mathematics. We know that pupils in our school need extra support and are working below their age group (called age related expectations). However, rather than assign a colour or a number, we are going to use **Learning Stages** to celebrate achievement. The *Learning Stages* directly relate to the **new National Curriculum** in English and mathematics. We have not forgotten the other subject areas nor are they in anyway less important but we know the greatest focus at the moment is on developing assessment in English and mathematics.

English will be split into 2 elements initially (**Reading and Writing**) and Maths will be split in 2 similar elements (**Number and Shape**).

Each 'Stage' will directly relate to the year expectations of the **new National Curriculum**. So, it would be possible for a Year 8 pupil in our school to be working at the Year 3 level of mainstream pupil. This does not mean they are making any less progress, it just is an indication of the additional support they need as part of their placement here.

Behind each stage is a well thought out and discussed set of indicators that should allow us to make accurate judgements about the stage each pupil is working at.

Example 1

For a pupil just starting (or *Beginning*) to achieve at the Year 3 stage would be reported as:

Stage 3 Beginning Code: S3B

Example 2

A pupil who is able demonstrate securely an understanding of the Year 3 stage (*Developing* a good knowledge) would be reported as:

Aaron Wright –Assessment Guide at TAS

Stage 3 Developing

Code: S3D

Example 3

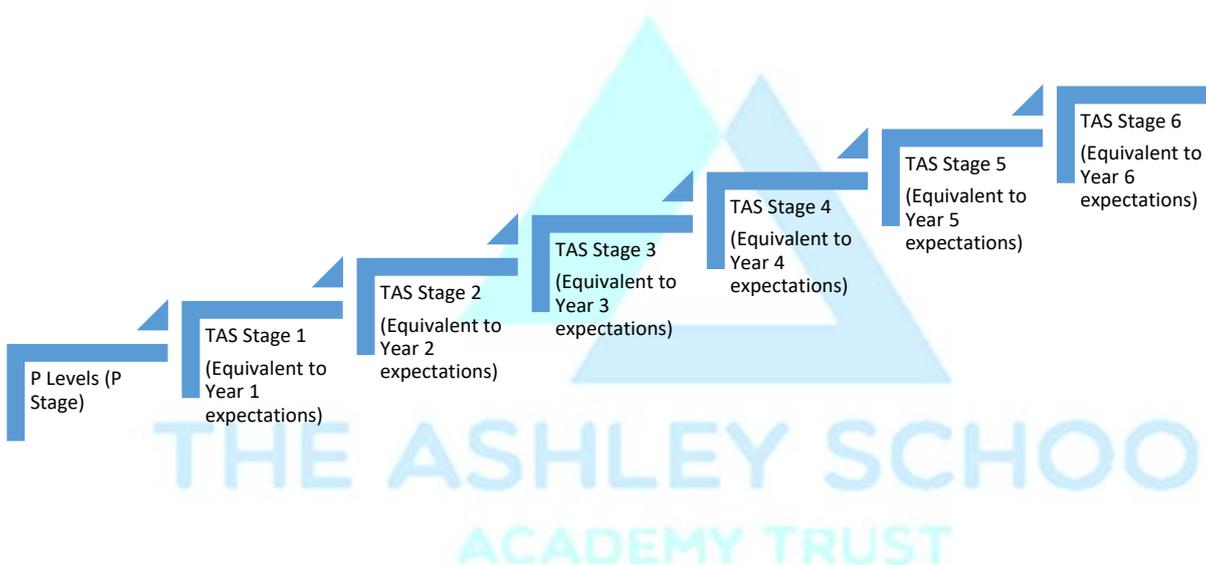
A pupil who has mastered the Year 3 expectations and has shown they are confident that stage would be reported as:

Stage 3 Confident

Code S3C

For this year, we will continue reporting 'old' national curriculum levels in all subjects except English and Maths (so they will continue to receive a 1a, 2c etc. in all other subjects).

Please note that the majority of our pupils will be working below their 'actual' (chronological) age. To put it in a bit of context, it would be likely that a pupil in Year 8 at Ashley will be working at a Year 3 Attainment Stage.



Pupils can be working at different stages – for example, a Year 8 pupil might be working at Stage 3 (or Year 3 expectations) and this is totally appropriate for our school

context. Again, we will continue to support pupils and we know they will make progress at different rates. Similarly, a Year 8 pupil might be working within the P Level range which have not changed under this review.

To make matters a little more complicated, the Department for Education has said that 'P levels' will remain unchanged for the time being. Again, for us, if a pupil is working at 'P levels' in any subject this will be reported in the same way as at present.

We have spent a lot of time planning and making sure the curriculum and assessment is right and provides the stretch and challenge we need that is appropriate to pupils. Our plans for the year include developing 'Stages' in other subjects and developing some indications for the social and emotional skills we encourage in our school.

Where Next?

The aim eventually is to do the same thing for other subjects and relate curriculum content to the new national curriculum. For some subjects, where the national curriculum is more detailed, we will need to base the 'TAS Stages' around the year expectations

For other subjects, there is less formal guidance which means we can really set our own expectations for pupils.

